# ROVILLARD & BLEE, L.L.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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DEC 1 4 2005

FCC - MAILROOM

HANK N. ROVILLARD MICHAEL J. BLEE (NJ & PA BAR) EDWARD O. LIND, III (NJ & PA BAR) Email mjblee@rbnjlaw.com

Of Counsel LEONARD E. SCHWARTZ (NJ & NY BAR)

December 12, 2005

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Federal Communications Commission OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY 9300 East Hampton Drive Capital Heights, Maryland 20743

#### CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED / ITEM 7004 2890 0002 7198 1712

Re:

In the matter of Request for Review by RelComm, Inc. of Decision of Universal Service Administrator

CC Docket No. 02-6. \$LD Decision 1022916 and 1023492

Year Six E-Rate decisions

Billed Entity #123420: Atlantic City Board of Education

In the matter of Request for Review by RelComm, Inc. of Decision of Universal Service Administrator

CC Docket No. 02-6

SLD Decisions 1185824, 1185996, 1185946, 1185717, 1185789 and 1185745

Year Seven E-Rate Decisions dated January 11, 2005 Billed Entity #123420: Atlantic City Board of Education

Our file 13.586-1

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised that this firm represents the interests of the Atlantic City Board of Education [ACBOE] with regard to the above referenced matters. To date, I have not received a response to my previously submitted correspondence. (See copies of previous correspondence attached hereto) Upon your receipt and review of this communication, kindly provide in writing, confirmation that the Federal Communications Commission has received my inquiries and when this office can expect the release all funds available through the Year Six and Year Seven E-Rate Program to the Atlantic City School District.

Your immediate attention is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Is/ Michael J. Blee, Esquire

Michael J. Blee, for Rovillard & Blee, L.L.C.

MJB:kw

CC:

**Dictated Not Read** 

No. of Copies rec'd List ABCDE

Fredrick P. Nickles, Superintendent of Schools

### ROVILLARD & BLEE, L.L.C.

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HANK N. ROVILLARD MICHAEL J. BLEE (NJ & PA BAR) EDWARD O. LIND, III (NJ & PA BAR) Of Counsel LEONARD E. SCHWARTZ (NJ & NY BAR)

November 11, 2005

Federal Communications Commission OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY 9300 East Hampton Drive Capital Heights, Maryland 20743

Re: In the matter of Request for Review by RelComm, Inc. of Decision of Universal Service Administrator CC Docket No. 02-6, SLD Decision 1022916 and 1023492
Year Six E-Rate decisions
Billed Entity #123420: Atlantic City Board of Education

In the matter of Request for Review by RelComm, Inc. of Decision of Universal Service Administrator CC Docket No. 02-6 SLD Decisions 1185824, 1185996, 1185946, 1185717, 1185789 and 1185745 Year Seven E-Rate Decisions dated January 11, 2005 Billed Entity #123420: Atlantic City Board of Education Our file 13.586-1

### To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised that this firm represents the interests of the Atlantic City Board of Education [ACBOE] with regard to the above referenced matters. I am in receipt of correspondence of October 3, 2005 from counsel for Jonathan Jones, John M. Donnelly, Esquire, which seeks to have Mr. Jones "subrogate to the rights of RelComm in the above captioned litigation". (See correspondence attached hereto as Exhibit "A") As you are aware, RelComm has voluntarily withdrawn its appeals of Year Six and Year Seven. The withdrawal of these appeals was forwarded to your office on or about October 20, 2005. (See correspondence attached hereto as Exhibit "B") To date we have not received any indication from the Federal Communications Commission that funds will be disbursed. We would appreciate that you take immediate action concerning this request as the school district has been crippled for a long period of time as a result of the filing of these appeals.

With respect to Mr. Donnelly's correspondence of October 3, 2005, it is important to mention that Mr. Jones is no longer employed by the Atlantic City School District. He is a

disgruntled former employee who has filed a lawsuit, which does not involve the Federal E-Rate process and is being litigated in the civil courts of the State of New Jersey. This correspondence is a blatant attempt to use the Federal Communications Commission's disbursement of funds to the Atlantic City School District as leverage in his civil lawsuit.

In addition, Mr. Jones' request is untimely. The Year Six appeal filed with the Federal Communications Commission on behalf of RelComm, which has subsequently been withdrawn, was filed on or about August 9, 2004. The Year Seven appeal to the Federal Communications Commission on behalf of RelComm, which has also been withdrawn, was filed on or about February 25, 2005.

Moreover, Mr. Jones does not have standing to filing any type of appeal or subrogate to the interest of RelComm. As the federal appellate courts have recognized, standing to file a protest to a bid award by a federal government entity is afforded to an "interested party". 28 U.S.C. §1491(b)(1). The "interested party" standard is analogous to the "aggrieved party" standard set forth in 47 C.F.R. §54.722 for filing requests for review of the USF administrator's decisions, particularly with respect to an appeal which challenges the manner in which a An "interested party" for purposes of objecting to a competitive procurement was conducted. federal contract award, post-award, is limited to actual or prospective bidders or offerors whose direct economic interest would be affected by the award of the contract or by failure to award the contract. American Federation of Government Employees v. United States, 258 F.3d 1294, 1302 (Fed. Cir. 2001). Unless the protestor filed an actual bid, the only way in which the protestor can establish standing is to demonstrate that it is a prospective bidder. In order to demonstrate prospective bidder status, the protester must show that it expects to submit a bid within the established deadline, and this opportunity ends when the proposal period ends. McRae Industries, Inc. v. United States, In the United States Court of Federal Claims, No. 01-460 C (Filed August 14, 2002).

Accordingly, we respectfully request that you do not consider this inappropriate application by a disgruntled former employee, Jonathan Jones. We further renew our request to immediately release all funds available through the Year Six and Year Seven E-Rate Program to the Atlantic City School District based upon the <u>voluntary</u> withdrawal by RelComm of its appeals and the merit of the submissions from the Atlantic City School District filed with the Federal Communications Commission.

Your immediate attention is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Isl Michael J. Blee, Esquire

Michael J. Blee, for

Rovillard & Blee, L.L.C.

MJB:kw enclosures

#### Dictated Not Read

cc: John M. Donnelly, Esquire
J. Philip Kirchner, Esquire
Schools and Library Division
Fredrick P. Nickles, Superintendent of Schools
Donna Haye, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Christopher A. Brown, Esquire

Exhibit "A"

## LEVINE, STALLER, SKLAR, CHAN, BROWN & DONNELLY, P.A.

a Professional Association

COUNSELLORS AT LAW 3030 ATLANTIC AVENUE \*ATLANTIC CITY, NJ 08401-6380

\*Please reply to Atlantic City

RICHARD J. ALBUQUERQUE ARTHUR M. BROWN<sup>I</sup> PAUL T. CHAN<sup>I</sup>"" MARY BETH CLARK BRIAN J. CULLEN<sup>I</sup> JOHN M. DONNELLY"" LEE A. LEVINE""" E. ALLAN MACK<sup>I</sup> KEVIN J. McCABE SCOTT J. MITNICK<sup>I</sup> ARTHUR E. SKLAR<sup>I</sup> MICHAEL D. SKLAR<sup>I</sup>

TELEPHONE (609) 348-1300

FAX (609) 345-2473 (609) 347-1166 1601 TILTON ROAD, SUITE 6 \*NORTHFIELD, NJ 08225

5406 NEW JERSEY AVENUE •WILDWOOD CREST, NJ 08260

E-MAIL

JDONNELLY@levinestaller.com

October 3, 2005

\*LL.M. (Taxmior)

\*MEMBER NJ & PA BAK

\*\*MEMBER NJ & PL BAR

\*\*\*MEMBER NJ, NY & FL BAR

\*\*\*MEMBER NJ & DC BAR

ALAN C. STALLER! BENJAMIN ZELTNER"

#### Via UPS Next Day Air

Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary 9300 East Hampton Drive Capitol Heights, MD 20743

#### Via Regular Mail

Letter of Appeal Schools and Libraries Division Box 125-Correspondence Unit 80 South Jefferson Road Whippany, NJ 07981

RE: IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST FOR REVIEW BY RELCOMM, INC.
OF DECISION OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR
CC Docket No.: 02-6
Year Six E-Rate: SLD Decision 1022916 and 1023492
Year Seven E-Rate: SLD Decision 1185824,1185996,
1185946, 1185717, 1185789 and 1185745
Billed entity #123420: Atlantic City Board of
Education

#### Dear Sirs:

Please be advised that this firm represents John Jones, the former Data Processing Manager for the Atlantic City School District. We understand that Relcomm, Inc. has

filed various appeals with either the SLD or the FCC with regard to the Atlantic City School District years 6, 7 and 8 funding cycles for the E-Rate Program. See Relcomm Year Six F.C.C. Appeal (exhibits omitted), attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and Relcomm Year Seven F.C.C. Appeal (exhibits omitted) attached hereto as Exhibit "B". We further understand that Relcomm has recently settled a lawsuit with the Atlantic City School District which in part revolved around allegations of bid rigging and specifically, that Relcomm alleged the School Board engaged in unlawful bid practices in awarding the years 6, 7 and 8 E-Rate Program bids.

Please be advised that our client, Jon Jones, formerly the Data Processing Manager for the city of Atlantic City, was separated from the Board based in part on allegations that he made that the School Board was engaging in improper bidding practices and procedures including improper behavior under the E-Rate program rules and regulations. We are currently engaged in litigation with the Board regarding this matter and many of the issues we have raised parallel those that we understand were raised by Relcomm. See Amended Complaint attached hereto as Exhibit "C".

We, therefore, respectfully request that we be permitted to subrogate to the rights of Relcomm in the above captioned litigation. That is, we seek to step into the place of Relcomm to continue to pursue the objections to the issuance of E-Rate funds based on the allegations contained in the Relcomm appeals and based upon the allegations contained in our own Complaint, a copy of which is attached.

Alternatively, we seek that based upon the obvious public interest implicated by these allegations that the

SLD and the FCC waive any limitation periods and that Mr. Jones be permitted to file a new appeal of this matter and that said appeal be treated as timely. We respectfully request that we be permitted to brief this waiver issue more fully, but for the purpose of this initial letter, we state that prior to the settlement of the Relcomm litigation and the demand that we believe the Atlantic City District placed on Relcomm to withdraw its E-rate objections, our client Mr. Jones fully believed that Relcomm would pursue its appeals with the SLD and the FCC and therefore, the blatant wrongdoing and improper procedures that are set out in their appeals would be properly addressed by the joint agencies. Mr. Jones is an individual who was separated from the Board and did not have the wherewithal to file an individual appeal. Nor did he believe it appropriate to file a second appeal when the existing appeals were pending.

Notwithstanding his lack of resources to do same, he objects to the agencies issuing E-rate funds in face of the very significant allegations of wrongdoing and the wrongful actions of the Board which the Board, many of its principals, Relcomm and he himself are aware of. We therefore respectfully request that any time limits be waived in the public interest and we have the right to more fully brief this issue. We write at this time for fear that in settling its case with the Board, Relcomm will be put under extreme pressure by the District to remove its objections to the issuance of E-rate monies and that the FCC and SLD will unknowingly participate in what we believe to be extremely improper behavior on behalf of certain agents of the District.

Please advise us immediately if there are any procedural steps we must take to formalize more completely this appeal and to enter into the appellate or complaint process. We intend to review the Commission and SLD's regulations and to promptly file whatever formal appeals are necessary. We wanted to promptly give notice to both agencies of what we consider to be an attempt to sweep this very serious matter under the rug.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Donnelly

JMD/lat

Cc: John Duggan, Esq.

Jon Jones

Exhibit "B"



OCT 2 1 2005

1810 Chapel Avenue West Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 (856) 661-1900 Fax: (856) 661-1919 www.flastergreenberg.com

#### J. PHILIP KIRCHNER, ESQUIRE

Member of NJ & PA Bar Direct Dial (856) 661-2268 E-Mail:phil.kirchner@flastergreenberg.com PLEASE RESPOND TO CHERRY HILL

October 20, 2005

Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary 9300 East Hampton Drive Capitol Heights, MD 20743

Re: IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST FOR REVIEW BY RELCOMM, INC. OF

DECISION OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR

CC Docket No. 02-6

SLD decision 1022916 and 1023492

Year Six E-Rate decisions

Billed entity #123420: Atlantic City Board of Education

IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST FOR REVIEW BY RELCOMM, INC. OF

DECISION OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR

CC Docket No. 02-6

SLD decisions 1185824, 1185996, 1185946, 1185717, 1185789 and 1185745

Year Seven E-Rate decisions dated January 11, 2005 Billed entity #123420: Atlantic City Board of Education

Dear Sirs or Madams:

In accordance with the terms of its settlement agreement with the Atlantic City Board of Education ("ACBOE"), which became effective by virtue of a formal resolution of the ACBOE on September 28, 2005, Petitioner, RelComm, Inc., hereby requests the withdrawal of the above Requests for Review. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

FLASTER/GREENBERG P.C.

J. Philip Kirchner

JPK/kd

cc:

Michael Blee, Esquire
Joseph Lang, Esquire
Arthur Murray, Esquire
Deborah Weinstein, Esquire
Michael Shea

### ROVILLARD & BLEE, L.L.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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HANK N. ROVILLARD MICHAEL J. BLEE (NI & PA BAR) EDWARD O. LIND, III (NI & PA BAR) Of Counsel
LEONARD E. SCHWARTZ
(NJ & NY BAR)

October 25, 2005

Federal Communications Commission
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
9300 East Hampton Drive
Capital Heights, Maryland 20743
VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Re: In the matter of Request for Review by RelComm, Inc. of Decision of Universal Service Administrator CC Docket No. 02-6, SLD Decision 1022916 and 1023492 Year Six E-Rate decisions Billed Entity #123420: Atlantic City Board of Education

In the matter of Request for Review by RelComm, Inc. of Decision of Universal Service Administrator CC Docket No. 02-6 SLD Decisions 1185824, 1185996, 1185946, 1185717, 1185789 and 1185745 Year Seven E-Rate Decisions dated January 11, 2005 Billed Entity #123420: Atlantic City Board of Education

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised that this firm represents the interests of the Atlantic City Board of Education (ACBOE) with regard to the above referenced matters. Enclosed herewith please find the following:

(X) A letter directed to the Federal Communications Commission, Office of the Secretary, 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capital Heights, Maryland 20743 (O & 4).

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Blee, Esquire

Rovillard & Blee, L.L.C.

MJB:ld enclosures

## ROVILLARD & BLEE, L.I

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

8025 BLACK HORSE PIKE BAYPORT ONE, SUITE 455 WEST ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY 08232

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HANK N. ROVILLARD MICHAEL J. BLEE (NJ & PA BAR) EDWARD O. LIND, III (NJ & PA BAR) Of Counsel
LEONARD E. SCHWARTZ
(NJ & NY BAR)

October 25, 2005

Federal Communications Commission OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY 9300 East Hampton Drive Capital Heights, Maryland 20743

Re: In the matter of Request for Review by RelComm, Inc. of Decision of Universal Service Administrator CC Docket No. 02-6, SLD Decision 1022916 and 1023492
Year Six E-Rate decisions
Billed Entity #123420: Atlantic City Board of Education

In the matter of Request for Review by RelComm, Inc. of Decision of Universal Service Administrator CC Docket No. 02-6 SLD Decisions 1185824, 1185996, 1185946, 1185717, 1185789 and 1185745 Year Seven E-Rate Decisions dated January 11, 2005 Billed Entity #123420: Atlantic City Board of Education

#### Dear Sirs or Madams:

This firm represents the interests of the Atlantic City Board of Education in the above captioned matters.

Attached hereto as Exhibit "A" is correspondence from the Petitioner, RelComm, Inc., requesting the withdrawal of Requests for Review in both Year Six and Seven, which was recently filed with the Federal Communications Commission. Based upon this withdrawal, we would ask that you immediately release all funds due and owing to the Atlantic City School District. The computer system in the district is failing and requires upgrading as soon as possible. Both of these appeals have been pending for an extremely long period of time and the district certainly has suffered as a result of this delay.

With respect to Year Six, on August 8, 2004, RelComm filed a Request for Review, along with a Statement of Relevant Facts. Subsequently, on or about October 14, 2004, the Atlantic City Board of Education filed a Petition for Waiver of 47 C.F.R. Section 54.721(d) and 54.725 and a Response on Behalf of the Atlantic City Board of Education and Alemar

Consulting to the Request for Review. With respect to the Request of Waiver of 47 C.F.R. Section 54.725, the Atlantic City Board of Education sought a Waiver of the automatic stay effectuated by the filing of the Request of Review for RelComm. As we indicated in the Atlantic City Board of Education's request, the act of filing the appeal thwarted the district's efforts to make effective use of its existing technology, as well as to undertake its new procurements. The Federal Communications Commission did not rule on this request for waiver, which has now been requested a year ago. Since RelComm has now voluntarily withdrawn its Request for Review, this entire matter is now moot and we would respectfully request that the Federal Communications Commission release funds for the Year Six E-Rate Award totaling approximately \$3,594,969.00 immediately to the Atlantic City School District.

RelComm's appeal of the Year Seven decision as set forth above is even more egregious. In that case, the Petitioner, RelComm, Inc., filed its appeal to the Federal Communications Commission on or about February 26, 2005. The Atlantic City Board of Education filed a Motion to Dismiss RelComm's Request for Review of the Universal Service Administrator's Decision due to lack of standing. RelComm was not affected or aggrieved in a manner in which it could establish a plausible interest to justify its filing of this Request for Review. RelComm voluntarily chose not to submit a bid in response to Atlantic City Board of Education's posting of form for Seven Year applications. Accordingly, it was the Atlantic City School District's argument that RelComm had no right to appeal the Administrator's decision. The Atlantic City Board of Education filed this Motion on or about March 15, 2005. The Year Seven Appeals were for a total of approximately \$762,866.00. Once again, the School District has been crippled as a result of this long and lengthy appeal, which is now voluntarily withdrawn by RelComm.

The Atlantic City Board of Education respectfully requests that all funding awards be released to the School District for the above mentioned reasons immediately. The appeals have been voluntarily withdrawn by the Petitioner and there is no reason for the Atlantic City School District to continue to suffer.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Blee, Esquire Rovillard & Blee, L.L.C.

MJB:ld enclosure

cc: Schools and Library Division (via First Class Mail)

Ralph Kelly, Esquire (via First Class Mail)
Arthur Murray, Esquire (via First Class Mail)
Deborah Weinstein, Esquire (via First Class Mail)

Fredrick P. Nickles, Superintendent of Schools (via Facsimile 609-345-3268)

Christopher A. Brown, Esquire (via Facsimile 609-344-8271)

Lisa Mooney, Business Administrator/Secretary (via Facsimile 609-347-1549)

Debra M. Kriete (via First Class Mail)



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PLEASE RESPOND TO CHERRY HILL

October 20, 2005

Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary 9300 East Hampton Drive Capitol Heights, MD 20743

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Very truly yours,

FLASTER/GREENBERG P.C.

J. Philip Kirchner

JPK/kd

cc: Michael Blee, Esquire
Joseph Lang, Esquire

Arthur Murray, Esquire Deborah Weinstein, Esquire

Michael Shea

